

REMARKS

Applicants note that in the Continuation Sheet of the Advisory Action mailed July 20, 2010 it is alleged that amended claims 44 and 56 submitted on July 6, 2010 recite subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner takes the position that there is inadequate support for the recited first heat treatment "to an end temperature of at least 350°C" (for A) and "to an end temperature of at least 120°C" (for B).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner in this regard. In particular, the first paragraph of page 4 of the present specification describes that for variant A, the first stage heat treatment is carried out up to an end temperature of about 400°C. Furthermore, Example 1, i.e., the only Example illustrating this statement, describes that the heating of the first stage was carried out at a heating rate of 5 K/min up to 350°C (page 17, lines 8-10 of the present specification). Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the inventors were of the opinion that for variant A the end temperature of the first stage heating should preferably be at least 350°C (but preferably not higher than about 400°C).

Further, the first paragraph of page 4 of the present specification describes that for variant B, the first stage heat treatment is carried out up to an end temperature of about 500°C. Furthermore, Example 2, i.e., the only Example illustrating this statement, describes that the heating of the first stage was carried out at a heating rate of 5 K/min up to 120°C (page 17, last two lines of the present specification). Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the inventors were of

P30123.A07

the opinion that for variant B the end temperature of the first stage heating should preferably be at least 120°C (but preferably not higher than about 500°C).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, wherefore an early issuance of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability is again respectfully solicited. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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